

**For Immediate Release
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Holden and Maxwell Announce the Formation of the Governor's Mayoral Advisory Committee on Veterans

JEFFERSON CITY - Gov. Bob Holden and Lt. Gov. Joe Maxwell today announced the formation of the Governor's Mayoral Advisory Committee on Veterans at the commission meeting of the Veterans Benefits Awareness Task Force (VBATF). The advisory committee, made up of five mayors from across the state, is tasked with creating a community-involved plan to connect local veterans and their families with their earned and deserved benefits. The committee will also create a "model" for other Missouri mayors to use in organizing their own community plans for reaching out to area veterans.

"We've had tremendous success in reaching veterans statewide since we organized the VBATF and implemented our Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits and toll-free benefits hotline," Maxwell said. "We would like for these town leaders to help us continue the progress by sharing their knowledge and ideas from a mayor's perspective."

The Mayoral Advisory Committee will function as a sub-committee of the VBATF, and will work through the Missouri Municipal League, chambers of commerce and other municipal organizations and associations to originate and promote veterans benefits awareness programs.

Members of the Mayoral Advisory Committee include Mayor Robert Lowery of Florissant, Mayor Gus Wetzel of Clinton, Mayor J.P. Evans of West Plains, Mayor Bob Wasson of Sedalia and Mayor Richard Russell of Joplin.

"I believe these leaders will play a crucial role in helping identify our Missouri veterans who are unaware of the benefits they might have, and I thank the mayors for their willingness to volunteer for this important initiative," Maxwell said.

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